

AGENDA: February 11, 2003

8.3

CATEGORY: New Business

DEPT.: City Manager

TITLE: State and Federal Legislative Objectives—
2003 Legislative Sessions

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the legislative objectives for the State and Federal 2003 legislative sessions.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact directly associated with the above-listed recommendation.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The legislative objectives contained in Attachment 1 were developed by staff to provide guidelines from which to advocate and communicate to the State Legislature, the Governor, Congress and other policy/decision makers the City's legislative positions. If approved by the Council, the legislative objectives will be used to provide direction to staff in developing and advocating the City's legislative positions and responding to specific legislative proposals. It is proposed that the Mayor continue to sign legislative correspondence based on the legislative objectives and principles and that legislative advocacy efforts continue to be coordinated by the City Manager's Office.

If approved by the Council, this will be the third year that a set of Council-approved legislative objectives will be used to guide the City's legislative efforts. These legislative guidelines provide the City with the ability to respond to legislative proposals at both the State and Federal levels in a timelier manner.

Staff has attempted to identify major legislative issues that will potentially be considered at the State and Federal level. However, because of the changing nature and fast pace of the legislative process, there is a potential that legislative issues will arise that are not contained in the list of legislative objectives. Therefore, it is recommended that there be some limited flexibility afforded in the City process for legislative advocacy to enable a timely response to new issues. As the Council and staff identify issues throughout the year that are important to the City but not included in the legislative objectives, it is proposed that the Council approve with this action that the Mayor will be authorized to sign legislative advocacy letters

regarding new issues that have been analyzed by the City Manager or his designee and found to be consistent with the following principles:

- Protects local revenue sources designed for use by local governments.
- Protects/increases local control.
- Protects/increases funding for key City programs or services.
- Supports key City programs.
- Prevents unfunded mandates.
- Is consistent with existing City policy.
- Is consistent with legislative objectives adopted by the Council.

The legislative objectives were developed with input of appropriate departmental staff and other regional governmental organizations. Staff also attended the League of California Cities legislative briefing held on November 6, 2002 where information regarding recently adopted legislation and an overview of the 2003 State legislative session was provided.

CONCLUSION

The adoption of legislative objectives will provide the City with the ability to respond in a timely manner to legislative proposals. City legislative advocacy efforts will continue to be coordinated by the City Manager's Office, and regular updates regarding legislative activity will be provided to the City Council. Staff is also recommending that the City's legislative advocacy program contain limited flexibility to permit the development of responses to legislative proposals consistent with the legislative objectives adopted by Council and the principles listed above. Therefore, staff recommends approval of the recommendation to approve the State and Federal 2003 legislative objectives.

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PUBLIC NOTICING—Agenda posting.

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JP/9/CAM
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Attachment: 1. Legislative Objectives